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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLS/ALS Demo During July 31 Commission Meeting

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – During the regular Sedgwick County Commission Meeting on Wednesday, July 31, Bill Buchanan, Sedgwick County Manager, presented an EMS Update. The topic of the update was a demonstration by Sedgwick County Fire Department first responders and Sedgwick County EMS paramedics, to show how Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) work together during an actual patient call.

During the demonstration, actual Sedgwick County Fire first responders and EMS paramedics utilized the equipment and conducted the steps they would on an actual call, using a mannequin as the patient and someone providing bystander CPR. The Sedgwick County Fire Department responded to provide BLS care for a victim that has suffered a heart attack, EMS also responded on-scene to provide care.

"It's so important that citizens understand that both pieces of the system, BLS care and ALS care, are vital," said Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Ben Sciortino. "Regardless of who arrives on the scene first to help a patient, they must conduct the essential basic life support procedures. It doesn't matter if you are a fire first responder,

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a paramedic or even a doctor, you must do the basic, life-saving skills before anything else," Sciortino said.

Sedgwick County has a tiered system of care, which utilizes 9-1-1 dispatchers to provide Emergency Medical instructions, first responders to provide BLS care and Sedgwick County EMS paramedics to provide ALS care.

"Sedgwick County's EMS system is working for you. When you need emergency medical assistance, we have qualified people throughout the system that can help. There is really no one area that is more important than the others, because they have to work together for the best patient outcome," said Sciortino.

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